

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1. A method for integrating multimedia descriptions, comprising:  
2               receiving multimedia content;  
3               separating the multimedia content into multimedia categories;  
4               generating multimedia descriptions from each multimedia category;  
5               integrating the multimedia descriptions from each category using a  
6 multimedia integration description scheme; and  
7               storing the integrated multimedia description into a database.
- 1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia categories include at least one  
2 of image, audio, video, synthetic, and text.
- 1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia descriptions include  
2 descriptors, the descriptors defining a portion of the multimedia content.
- 1           4. The method of claim 3, wherein the descriptors include descriptor values, the  
2 descriptor values of descriptors from at least one multimedia description being combined  
3 with the descriptor values of at least one other multimedia description using the  
4 multimedia integration description scheme.
- 1           5. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia integration description  
2 scheme is compatible with MPEG-7.
- 1           6. The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia integration description  
2 scheme includes at least one of image, audio, video, synthetic, and text description  
3 schemes.
- 1           7. The method of claim 6, wherein the description schemes and the multimedia  
2 integration description schemes use a compatible description definition language.
- 1           8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2               receiving a request for the integrated multimedia description from a search  
3 engine server;  
4               retrieving the integrated multimedia description from the database; and  
5               providing the integrated multimedia description to the search engine server  
6 in response to the request.

1           9. The method of claim 1, wherein within the multimedia integration description  
2 scheme a multimedia stream is represented as a set of relevant multimedia objects that  
3 can be further organized by using object hierarchies.

1           10. The method of claim 9, wherein relationships among multiple multimedia  
2 objects are expressed using at least one of a tree structure and an entity relation graph.

1           11. The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated multimedia description is  
2 represented in a document type definition in eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

1           12. The method of claim 1, wherein a client/server system uses the multimedia  
2 integration scheme to perform a search in response to a user's query.

1           13. A system that integrates multimedia descriptions, comprising:  
2                 a plurality of description generators that receive multimedia content,  
3 separate the multimedia content into multimedia categories, and generating multimedia  
4 descriptions from each multimedia category; and  
5                 a multimedia integration description generator that integrates the  
6 multimedia descriptions generated by the plurality of description generators from each  
7 category, using a multimedia integration description scheme, and stores the integrated  
8 multimedia description into a database.

1           14. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia categories include at least  
2 one of image, audio, video, synthetic, and text.

1           15. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia descriptions include  
2 descriptors, the descriptors defining a portion of the multimedia content.

1           16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:  
2                 an integration description unit that provides descriptor values from the  
3 descriptors to the multimedia integration description generator, the descriptor values of  
4 descriptors from at least one multimedia description being combined with the descriptor  
5 values of at least one other multimedia description using the multimedia integration  
6 description scheme.

1           17. The system of claim 13, wherein the multimedia integration description  
2 scheme is compatible with MPEG-7.

1           24. The system of claim 13, wherein a client/server system uses the multimedia  
2   integration scheme to perform a search in response to a user's query.

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